

A New Species of Melochia from the Planalto of Bahia, Brazil

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Melochia longidentata A. Goldberg, sp. nov., sectionis Mougeotiae prope M. hasslerianam Chod. sed primarius in dentibus calycis longissimis et ad apicem angustissimis, calyce corollam aequante, et in inflorescentiis axillaribus parvis contractis paucifloris differt.

Herba erecta 0.25-0.5 m. alta, pilis simplicibus ad 3 mm. longis, etiam in calyce aliquot glandulosis. Foliolorum petioli 0.5-2.5 cm. longi, laminae 2.0-6.5 cm. longae, 1.0-3.3 cm. latae, lanceolato-ovatae, basi rotundatae apice acutae. Inflorescentiae axillares 1-1.5 cm. longae, floribus subsessilibus, 2-4 per inflorescentiam. Calyx 8-10 mm. longus, non accrescens, dentibus 7-9 mm. longis basi 1.2 mm. latis. Petala flava, 9.5-10 mm. longa ad 2.6 mm. lata. Forma longistyla: Stamina ad 4.1 mm. longa, pistillum ad 6.8 mm. longum. Forma brevistyla: Stamina ad 6.8 mm. longa, pistillum ad 4.5 mm. longum. Fructus globosus ad 6.4 mm. diametro, rostro ad 2 mm. longo; dehiscens secus totam suturam ventralem et tertia ad mediam partem secus suturam dorsalem atque septicide incompletus.

For ready comparison with other species the following description is in the style used in my monograph of Melochia in Contributions from the United States National Herbarium, vol. 34: 191-363. 1968.

An erect herb 0.25-0.5 m. high, 2 mm. wide, usually branching, the branches not basal, root not thickened, the stems and petioles moderately pilose, hairs simple, straight, extending laterally, 2.0 mm. long, also shorter, curved, and arranged in a line along the stem; internodes 1-7 cm. long.

Stipules 3-7 mm. long, 0.3-1.0 mm. wide, deltoid-acuminate, ciliate; petiole 0.5-2.5 cm. long; lamina 2.0-6.5 cm. long, 1.0-3.3 cm. wide, lanceolate-ovate, the base rounded, the apex acute, both surfaces sparsely pilose, hairs simple, appressed, 0.5-2 mm. long, irregularly crenate-serrate, serrations 1-3 mm. wide, 0.5-2.0 mm. high, costa prominent, pairs of lateral veins 7-10, straight, parallel, at about 45° angle to the costa, one pair of veins basal.

Inflorescences axillary, 1-1.5 cm. long, in the axils of 1-6 upper leaves, peduncle 0-0.3 cm. long, leaf subtending the inflorescence frequently reduced, flowers 2-4 per inflorescence, subsessile, the pedicels 1(-2) mm. long; bracts 4.5-6.0 mm. long, 0.5-1.0 mm. wide, linear, ciliate, the hairs 1-2 mm. long.

Calyx 8.0-10.0 mm. long, 3.7 mm. wide at the apex of the connate part, not accrescent, pilose, the hairs simple, 0.2-1.0 mm. long and a few uniseriate, 0.3 mm. long, with an apical gland; the teeth very long, 7.0-9.0 mm. long, 1.1-1.2 mm. wide at the base, deltoid-acuminate, filiform toward the apex, the sinus between the teeth acute to narrowly rounded; petals bright yellow

9.5-10.0 mm. long, 1.8-2.6 mm. wide, oblanceolate-cuneate.

Longistylous form: Stamens 3.8-4.1 mm. long, the filaments united up to the anthers, loosely adnate to the corolla for 1 mm., the anthers 1.2-1.3 mm. long, 0.6 mm. wide, oblong, emarginate at the apex for 0.3 their length; pistil 6.5-6.8 mm. long, the styles 4.9 mm. long, united for 1 mm., papillose for 0.7 mm. at the apex, the ovary globular, 1 mm. in diameter, sericeous, narrowing to a stipe 0.4 mm. long.

Brevistylous form: Stamens 6.0-6.8 mm. long, the filaments free for 3 mm., the anthers similar to those above; pistil 3.2-4.5 mm. long, the styles 2.1-2.2 mm. long, united for 1 mm., papillose for 0.5 mm. at the apex, the ovary globular, sericeous.

Fruit 7-8 mm. long, of which the rostrum is 1-2 mm., 5.0-6.4 mm. wide, globular, obtusely pentagonal, the sulci between the carpels shallow, extending 0.2 the way to the center of the fruit, pilose, the hairs simple, 1.5-3.0 mm. long; dehiscence all along the ventral suture and 0.3-0.5 way along the dorsal suture, also incompletely septicial; seeds immature, 2.4 mm. long, 1.7 mm. wide, generally 2 per locule.

Flowering and fruiting specimens collected in March.

Type Locality: The type was collected by W. R. Anderson, M. Stieber and J. H. Kirkbride, Jr., no. 36957, on the Planalto do Brasil, Estado de Bahia, in shrubby woods on gently sloping hills, ca. 13 km. S. of Cocos and 3 km. S. of Rio Itaguari, at 560 m. elevation. The specimens were distributed by the New York Botanical Garden. I have examined those sent to the U. S. National Herbarium and to the Instituto de Botanica del Nordeste, Corrientes, Argentina and designate the former as type.

This species is close to Melochia hassleriana Chod. but differs primarily in having very long calyx teeth, the calyx being as long as the corolla, and in having short, contracted, few-flowered, axillary inflorescences. Only the calyx teeth of M. morongii Britt., in the section *Pyramis*, extend into the range of those of M. longidentata.